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Cheshire Birth to Three Program
1686 Waterbury Rd.
Cheshire, Ct.
06410
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Appropriations Committee
Legislative Office Building-Room 2700
Hartford, Ct. 06106

To the Appropriations Committee,

I am writing in concern of the proposed transfer for B-3 from OEC to DSS. My particular concern is about DSS's ability to adequately administer funding for the program to ensure that the providers, and the children and families they serve, are not disrupted.

The new fee for service system, under CMS and DSS, will compromise the quality of services that will have negative ramifications for children in Connecticut, resulting in the rise of costs to the local special education departments.

The fee for service system was already tried and found costly and therefore eliminated.

Having been a service provider for the B-3 system since its inception, I feel I am speaking from experience as to what is best for our Connecticut children and families. Keeping B-3 funding and alignment with OEC is the most practical and qualitative position as well as supports the sustainability of our fine B-3 system services. Ultimately, this is a cost savings for the special education programs in each and every one of Connecticut's school systems.

Thank-you,
Donna Notti
Program Coordinator
Cheshire Public Schools Birth to Three Program